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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW.

BY: Elizabeth Shewell

DATE: December 26, 2002

Patent

Box Non-Fee Amendment

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re:	Patent Application of Nanning J. Arfsten, <i>et al.</i>	: Group Art Unit: 1775
Appln. No.:	09/437,948	: Examiner: J. McNeil
Conf. No.:	8672	:
Filed:	November 10, 1999	:
For:	NIOBIUM OXIDE-BASED LAYERS FOR THIN FILM OPTICAL COATINGS AND PROCESSES FOR PRODUCING THE SAME	: Attorney Docket No. 275-3US

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**AMENDMENT**

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated October 3, 2002 (Paper No. 16) in the above-identified patent application.

Please amend the application without prejudice as follows:

Please add the following section at page 1, below line 3:

**--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION**

91  
This application is a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. Application No. 10/139,477, filed May 6, 2002, which is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/201,599, filed November 30, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,410,173 B1.--

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 19, 20, 22, and 23 are presently pending in the application.